



FEMA

Fact Sheet

Responder Knowledge Base - The Emergency Responder Decision Support Tool

Responder Knowledge Base Mission

“Provide emergency responders, purchasers, and planners with a trusted, integrated, online source of information on products, standards, certifications, grants, and other equipment-related information.”

Background

The RKB is designed as a support infrastructure for the State, local, and tribal homeland security community to assist with equipment purchasing decisions. Provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Preparedness Directorate, the RKB includes information on the Standardized Equipment List, which provides the recommended equipment to accomplish a mission or task; FEMA Authorized Equipment List, which is applicable only to FEMA Preparedness grants; and equipment specifications for over 7,000 products including related certifications and applicable standards. The RKB also hosts available assessment reports, safety notices, training, and publications related to emergency response—all at no cost to the user.



A Decision Support Tool

Knowledge Links is a unique tool within the RKB. They are located on the right-hand side of every record. These links connect relevant content, allowing the user to view a full circle of information. Whether you are searching for a product or training available for a product, all the information is on one page. The RKB assists all types of users to quickly find information needed on a particular subject matter without spending valuable time and resources researching disparate sources.

“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”

Recent Highlights

- ★ Added the FEMA Preparedness Grants Module to house all FEMA Preparedness Grants and the AEL.
- ★ Began including National Incident Management System Supporting Technology Evaluation Program reports under a subcategory of Operational Assessments.
- ★ Created subcategories across the Web site for ease of user browsing.
- ★ Implemented an enhanced conferences and grants calendar to the Web site homepage.

FEMA Preparedness Grants and AEL

The FEMA Preparedness Grants and AEL section contains funding opportunities offered by FEMA Grant Programs Directorate. Grants are designed to help states, urban areas, tribal governments, and non-profit agencies improve their readiness by enhancing protection, prevention, response, and recovery capabilities for all disasters. The AEL provides information on allowable equipment expenditures for specific FEMA grants. The AEL is not an approved products list, rather it is a generic list of equipment categories allowable under specific FEMA grants. The AEL is the only list that should be consulted for these grant applications.



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER)

The SAVER section was added to the RKB in June 2009 and is the location for all SAVER documents. The SAVER program is a testing and evaluation program by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate. SAVER supports S&T's mission by conducting objective assessments and validations on commercial emergency responder equipment and systems and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides test and evaluation information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the AEL.

SAVER documents include market survey reports, focus group reports, full assessment reports, summaries, handbooks, TechNotes, and newsletters.

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